

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A semi-trailer sidewall construction, comprising:
a horizontally aligned base rail;

a horizontally aligned top rail;

a plurality of vertical posts coupled between the top and bottom rails at spaced apart intervals along a length of the top and bottom rails;

a plurality of outside panels coupled between the top and base rails, separate outside panels being coupled to pairs of vertical post within the spaced apart intervals;

a plurality of inside panels coupled between the top and bottom rails, separate inside panels being coupled to pairs of vertical posts within the spaced apart intervals;

wherein the outside and inside panels are spaced apart a distance defined by a thickness of the posts.
2. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein the vertical posts include first and second thicknesses, the first thickness being less than the second thickness.
3. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein the outside panels are coupled to the posts in a non-overlapping arrangement relative to adjacent outside panels.
4. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein the inside panels are coupled to the posts in a non-overlapping arrangement relative to adjacent inside panels.

5. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein an inward facing primary surface of the inside panels is substantially flush mounted with a primary surface of the posts that extends inward most in the trailer.

6. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein an outward facing primary surface of the outside panels is substantially flush mounted with a primary surface of the posts that faces outward.

7. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 2, further comprising a spacer member positioned between opposing outside and inside panel within the spaced interval, the spacer having a thickness substantially equal to the first post thickness.

8. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 2, wherein the vertical posts include a third thickness defined by a recessed portion at an end of the posts sized to receive a flashing member.

9. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 2, wherein the first post thickness is defined by a distance between recessed portions formed in opposing inside and outside primary surfaces of the posts.

10. (currently amended) The sidewall construction of claim [[2]] 9, wherein the recessed portions are recessed an amount substantially equal to a thickness of the inside and outside panels that are mounted in the respective recessed portions.

11. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 2, wherein the second post thickness is defined by a distance between an outer most surface and an inner most primary surface of the posts.

12. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein the lower rail includes a plate member, the plate member being coupled between the inside and outside panels.

13. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 12, wherein the plate member has a width/height of about 18 to about 30 inches.

14. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein the sidewall construction has a total thickness of about 0.25 to 2 inches.

15. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein the sidewall construction has a total thickness of about 0.5 inches.

16. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 2, wherein the first post thickness is about 0.4 inches, the second post thickness is about 0.5 inches, and the outside and inside panels have a thickness of about 0.04 to 0.05 inches.

17. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 2, further comprising an intermediate horizontal rail extending between two of the plurality of posts in the spaced interval vertically between the top and bottom rails, the intermediate rail including inside and outside primary surfaces and a reduced thickness portion substantially equal to the post first thickness.

18. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 17, wherein a portion of the intermediate rail is exposed adjacent the inside or outside panels, includes a hollow core, and includes an aperture formed in the inside or outside primary surface that provides access into the hollow core.

19. (withdrawn) A trailer panel assembly, comprising a plurality of inside panels and a plurality outside panels positioned in a spaced apart orientation with an air gap defined between the outside and inside panels, the plurality of inside panels being positioned side-by-side without overlapping an adjacent inside panel, and the plurality of outside panels being positioned side-by-side without overlapping an adjacent outside panel.

20. (withdrawn) The trailer panel assembly of claim 19, further comprising a joining post positioned between the outside and inside panels at a joining point between pairs of inside and outside panels.

21. (withdrawn) The trailer panel assembly of claim 19, further comprising a plurality of joining posts positioned between the outside and inside panels, wherein each post is positioned at a joining point between either a pair of outside panels or a pair of inside panels.

22. (withdrawn) The trailer panel assembly of claim 19, further comprising a joining post positioned between the outside and inside panels, wherein a portion of the post is positioned in a space between side-by-side inside panels or between side-by-side outside panels.

23. (withdrawn) A trailer panel assembly, comprising:
a plurality of inside panels and a plurality outside panels positioned in a spaced apart orientation thereby defining an air gap between the inside and outside panels, the plurality of inside panels being positioned side-by-side in an overlapping arrangement, and the plurality of outside panels being positioned side-by-side in an overlapping arrangement; and

a joining post positioned in the air gap and configured for coupling the plurality of inside panels to the plurality of outside panels, a thickness of the joining post defining in part a width of the air gap.

24. (withdrawn) The assembly of claim 23, wherein the joining post is positioned in the air gap adjacent to the overlapped portions of the outside panels and the inside panels.

25-37. (canceled)

38. (withdrawn) A trailer panel construction, comprising:
a post having first and second opposing sides each having a recessed portion and a non-recessed portion, the post having a first thickness defined between the recessed portions of the first and second sides and a second thickness defined between the non-recessed portions of the first and second sides;

a first panel member having opposing primary surfaces and being coupled to the post in the recessed portion of the first side;

a second panel member having opposing primary surfaces and being coupled to the post in the recessed portion of the second side;

whereby the primary surfaces of the first and second panels that are facing each other are spaced apart a distance substantially equal to the first post thickness, and the primary surfaces of the first and second panels that are facing away from each other are spaced apart a distance substantially equal to the second post thickness.

39. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 1, further comprising an drain structure configured to provide a fluid passage that extends from the spaced apart area defined between the outside and inside panels to an area outside the sidewall construction.

40. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 39, wherein the drain structure is a channel formed in the base rail.

41. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 39, wherein the drain structure is an aperture formed in a bottom edge of one of the inside or outside panels.

42. (original) The sidewall construction of claim 39, wherein the drain structure is a channel defined between one of the outside or inside panels and the base rail by a spacer member positioned between the base rail and the one outside or inside panel.

43. (new) The sidewall construction of claim 1, wherein one of the outside panels and an opposing one of the inside panels are coupled to the post with a plurality of fasteners, each fastener extending through the outside and inside panels and one of the vertical posts.

44. (new) The sidewall construction of claim 10, wherein the plurality of fasteners extend through the recessed portion of the vertical post.